



# Fact Sheet

## 2006 Emergency Levee Repairs

On February 24, 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency for California's levee system. Soon after, he signed Executive Order S-01-06 directing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to identify and repair eroded levee sites on the state-federal project levee system to prevent catastrophic flooding and loss of life. A total of 29 critical erosion sites on the levee system have been identified as in need of urgent repairs.

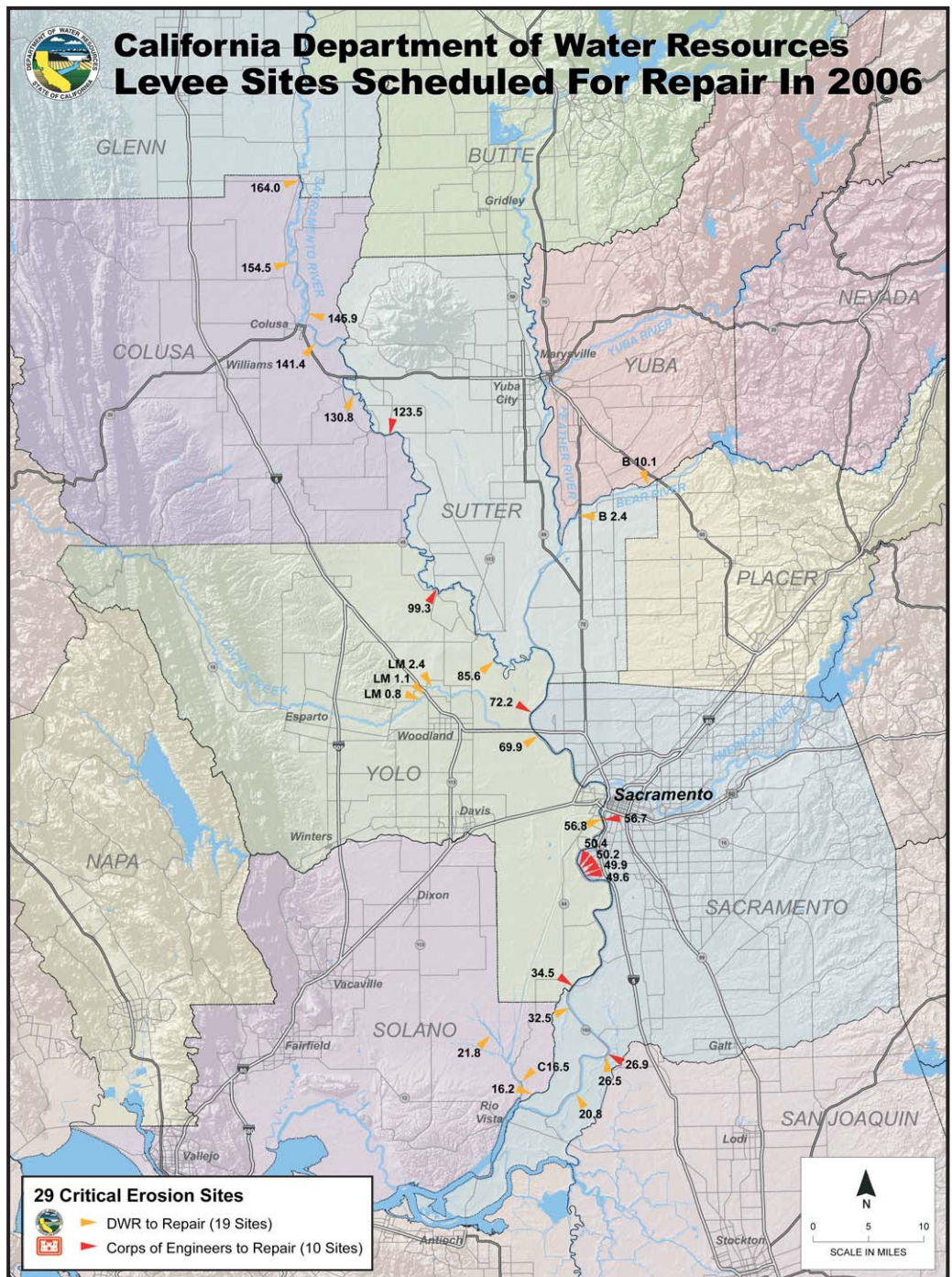
Immediately following the Governor's executive order, DWR evaluated more than 50 sites along the Sacramento River Flood System and began preparing designs for emergency repairs on 29 of these sites.

The designs are expected to move through the permitting, construction bidding and award process in June, with construction to begin at some sites later that same month. The aggressive nature of the schedule is needed to complete repairs on all 29 critical erosion sites before the next flood season.

The 29 identified critical erosion sites are located in six counties: Colusa, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba. The Department estimates the total cost to repair all sites to be approximately \$150 million.

DWR, with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is expected to complete repairs on all 29 sites by November 1, 2006. DWR will repair 19 sites while the Corps will take the lead on repairing the remaining 10 sites. The state has agreed to advance funds for repairs handled by the Corps, however state funds will be recovered through future repair work using traditional cost-sharing formulas.

As part of its mission, DWR has responded to requests from various local agencies to survey and document erosion damage at a number of additional proposed sites. DWR has committed to assisting local agencies in determining the best way to accomplish any needed repairs, the funding mechanisms available, and the responsible agency to take the lead.



## Environment

In May, California reached an unprecedented agreement with the federal government to allow the state to meet all federal environmental laws while maintaining the emergency schedule for repairs.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding signed by DWR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the agencies have agreed to complete all federal permits by June 21, 2006.

The agreement to expedite the permits will ensure the timely completion of all levee site repairs, and allows DWR to meet all required federal environmental permits, including the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Protection Act and other applicable federal laws.

DWR also consults with state environmental agencies to ensure this project meets all state environmental measures. Those agencies include the California Department of Fish & Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, State Lands Commission, the Reclamation Board, Regional Quality Control Board and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency.

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## **Emergency Levee Repair Project Schedule for 29 Critical Erosion Sites**

**May, June – Permitting, Right of Way  
and Design Complete**



**June – Construction Begins  
(Weather and Water Levels Permitting)**



**November – Construction Completed**



**December – Project Closeout**

## Repairs

Much of the erosion repair work will consist of placing soil and rock on the water side of the levee, with the goal of reestablishing the damaged levee slope and supporting toe structure. Rock for construction will be transported to sites by barge or truck.

Each repair will include environmental features to preserve rooted vegetation and aquatic habitat. Vegetation will be planted on levee benches and woody materials placed near the waterline to preserve fish habitat and to reduce the erosive action of current, waves and boat wakes. Habitat for endangered species, such as the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, will be preserved, and surveys will be done prior to construction for nesting bank swallows and Swainson's hawks. The project goal is to incorporate environmental features that mitigate any environmental damage as much as possible.

Setback levees are recommended for several of the sites, including three levees on Cache Creek. A setback levee is a second levee constructed behind, or set back from, the original levee. Setback levees are appropriate for locations where repeated repairs are needed, indicating the river is exerting too much force at a specific location. A setback levee allows additional area to dissipate this force, providing the needed flood protection. Setback levees also preserves habitat for riparian species and improves fish habitat and fisheries.

## More Information

DWR has dedicated a Web site specifically for those interested in the emergency levee repair project. Visitors can find exact site locations, up-to-date construction progress, fact sheets by site, photos of erosion sites and information for those living near or on a critical levee erosion site.

Visit the Department's site at:

**<http://www.levees.water.ca.gov>**

Levee erosion on the Upper  
Sacramento River at  
river mile 145.9 Left



## **For further information, please contact:**

Elizabeth Scott  
Public Information Officer  
(916) 835-5344  
[mescott@water.ca.gov](mailto:mescott@water.ca.gov)

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
PO Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236

**[www.levees.water.ca.gov](http://www.levees.water.ca.gov)**

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